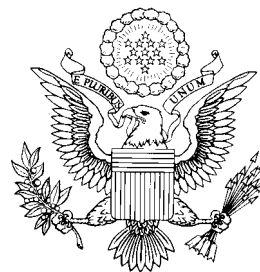


ARTICLE ALERT

Feb 2008



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民主与全球问题 Democracy and Global Issues

1. LONG TIME COMING: THE PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN CHINA

Thornton, John L.

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008

The Chinese view of democracy differs from the Western view, but many Chinese want more democracy and believe it is coming, according to the author, a professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing and chairman of the board of the Brookings Institution. Elections have been held in rural Chinese villages already for 20 years. Elections of pre-selected candidates have been held in a few townships and counties, the next administrative levels up. Perhaps more importantly, the Chinese Communist Party is putting forward multiple candidates for certain party positions; some observers imagine party factions could emerge in such a scheme that would make the party resemble Japan's long-ruling Liberal Democratic party, where policy differences are part of the legitimate process. The Chinese are also taking steps to make their judicial system and administrative system less corrupt, more open to challenge, and rooted in rule of law. "Optimists believe that gradualism will make the current liberalization last longer than the euphoric, but ultimately failed, experiences of the past," Thornton said.

2. WEB BEATS PRINT: NO LONGER ON THE FRINGE, POLITICAL BLOGGERS NOW DRIVE COVERAGE

Strupp, Joe

Editor & Publisher, vol. 140, no. 12, December 2007, pp. 22-27

Mainstream news outlets have embraced the Web log, making political blogs key features of campaign coverage. The author interviews political bloggers from the Los Angeles Times, Reno Gazette-Journal, The Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune and The Washington Post. They say blogs provide more information sooner, but it's demanding work and the results are unpredictable. "It is an online newsreel," says Michael Tackett of the Chicago Tribune's "The Swamp," adding that anything goes: serious reporting comes alongside gossip, trivia and campaign ad videos. Blogs allow greater freedom and can give a local flavor. "It is like a conversation, and it does not take as much context as a story because it is for people who know the context," says the Reno Gazette Journal's Anjeanette Damon. But writing at a fever pitch opens the doors to more editorial slips and errors. Cross-referencing competitors is new. It is part of Internet culture to feature a "blogroll," links to other similar blogs. Blogs also invite readers to post comments. The author maintains that, thanks to blogs, candidates now receive unprecedented exposure.

3. THE COMING REVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Zachary, G. Pascal

Wilson Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 50-66

Even as daily headlines bring grim news of misery, disease, and death in Africa, an agricultural transformation is lifting tens of millions of people out of poverty. A rising generation of small farmers promises not only to put food on the African table but to

fundamentally change the continent's economic and political life. While media images of starving and diseased Africans dominate international discussions of this continent, food production in the most heavily populated areas has far outpaced actual population growth, such as in Nigeria, with the largest population of any African country; here food production has grown faster than population for twenty years. In other West African countries, including Ghana, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Benin, crop output has risen by more than four percent annually, far exceeding the rate of population growth. Farm labor productivity in these countries is now so high that in some cases it matches the levels in certain parts of Asia. The World Bank's African Development Indicators 2007 reports that many African economies have moved to a path of faster and steadier economic growth. However, farmers still must deal with the skepticism of African leaders who scorned and exploited them for decades but who are now beginning to support and even participate in agricultural development.

4. THE LAST GREAT LAND GRAB

Gagnon, Geoffrey

Wired, vol. 16, no. 2, February 2008, pp. 86-89

Nations around the world face a deadline to make new territorial claims on the continental shelf that extends from their shorelines out into the sea. The U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea will allow nations to stake claims to territory on the shelf, but they must submit undersea maps of their claim within 10 years of their ratification of the treaty. So far, few nations have done so, but more are likely to submit their claims to a U.N. adjudicating panel soon. The rights to hundreds of millions of square kilometers and the oil and mineral rights that go with them are at stake. Gagnon follows a U.S. marine geologist on a mapping expedition and explains some of the technical points of the mapping process that will determine how greatly some nations may be able to expand their boundaries.

5. CULTURAL TOURISM: SEEKING AUTHENTICITY, ESCAPING INTO FANTASY, OR EXPERIENCING REALITY

Osborne, Brian; Kovacs, Jason

Choice, vol. 45, no. 6, February 2008, pp. 927-937

Cultural tourism, or culture tourism, can be defined as the subset of tourism concerned with a country or region's culture, especially its arts. It generally focuses on traditional communities who have diverse customs, unique forms of art and distinct social practices, which basically distinguishes it from other types/forms of culture. Today it is playing a major role in economic development in both the developed and the developing worlds. The authors believe that what history has been to national identity, so cultural tourism, and its protection of heritage, is now to renewing economic vitality. This bibliographical review focuses on recent literature that considers tourism strategies in which culture and heritage are considered integral to the attraction of distinctive places and experiences, especially to studies concerned with the better management of cultural tourism in terms of economic rationality, ecological sustainability, and cultural compatibility.

6. PHANTOM MENACE

Judis, John B.

New Republic, vol. 238, no. 4829, February 13, 2008, pp. 20-25

In this article, the author tries to explore the psychology behind America's immigration hysteria. There have been periodic bursts of anti-immigration fervor in the U.S. since the mid-nineteenth century, mostly directed at immigrants from Eastern Europe or religious groups such as Catholics and Jews. Anti-immigration sentiment against Muslims grew after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks; however, much of the current anti-immigration sentiment today is propelled by native-born Americans who feel threatened by the new global capitalism, as businesses that once flourished in small American towns have cut back or closed entirely and jobs have gone overseas. Anti-immigration fear is expected to play a large role in the in the 2008 presidential elections.

7. MARSEILLE'S ETHNIC BOUILLABAISSE

Purvis, Andrew

Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 9, December 2007, pp. 86-93

Marseilles, with its multifarious mix of ethnic and religious groups and a run-down port, has traditionally not had the best reputation. But when riots shook France a few years ago, Marseilles stayed relatively calm, causing public opinion makers across Europe to take a closer look. The author notes that, unlike Paris, where ethnic minorities live in the outskirts of the city and are not welcome downtown, diverse residential neighborhoods can be found throughout Marseille's city center. More importantly, community and civic leaders realized that they needed to work together to prevent world events from inciting passions among different groups; this spirit of cooperation was well established when anti-Semitic attacks erupted in France in 2002-2003. As growing numbers of immigrants are arriving in Europe, the author writes that Marseilles, one of the last remaining multicultural Mediterranean coastal cities, may be a model for Europe's future.

8. BUYING A CURE

Groopman, Jerome

New Yorker, vol. 83, no. 45, January 28, 2008, pp. 38-43

In 1998, when Kathy Giusti created the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to the lethal blood cancer, she realized that in order to accelerate the development of new myeloma drugs, she needed to foster greater collaboration between researchers at different academic institutions. In 2002, she decided to assemble a consortium of scientists who would be required to submit their research proposals to a steering committee for approval, and to publish their results jointly. In exchange, the scientists would receive access to a tissue bank of myeloma blood cells and bone marrow, as well as administrative and organizational support for lab tests and clinical trials. The consortium now has thirteen members, and at least two more institutions are expected to join this year. Most medical charities have traditionally focused on increasing public awareness and on raising money to distribute to researchers, in the hope that some of the work will lead to a new drug or a cure. The author notes that,

since Giusti established her foundation, medical philanthropies that apply business principles to their work have become increasingly common.

经济贸易 Economics and Trade

9. NEW AGE THINKING

Shoven, John B.

Foreign Policy, no. 164, January-February 2008, pp. 82-83

Will the worldwide tidal wave of aging baby boomers create a fiscal burden that will devastate the global economy? No, says Shoven, director of the Institute for Economic Policy Research at Stanford University. Our conception of “old” has itself become old-fashioned, he writes. He recommends using modern mortality risk measurements -- or the chance a person has of dying within the next year -- to measure age. The higher the mortality risk, the “older” a person is. Today’s 65-year-old man can expect to live another 17 years and has the same mortality risk a 59-year-old man did in 1970 or a 56-year-old man did in 1940. (Women, on average, live longer than men.) So, if one looks at the fraction of the U.S. population with a mortality risk higher than 1.5 percent, the growth of the “elderly” population is not that dramatic. By 2050, Shoven says, only 62.5 million Americans, or about 1.5 percent of the population, will have a mortality risk greater than 1.5 percent. Nonetheless, the average length of retirement for today’s 65-year-old man has stretched to more than 19 years. To keep the costs of ever-lengthening retirements under control, Shoven recommends altering retirement ages and pensions to reflect current mortality risks.

10. A DYING BREED

Rice, Andrew

New York Times Magazine, January 27, 2008

For centuries, the nomadic herders of Uganda have kept a hardy breed of longhorn cattle known as the Ankole. However, African herders now prefer imported American-bred Holstein cattle, which have now become the preferred breed for maximal production, a result of global trade, marketing, artificial insemination and the demands of agricultural economics. The author notes that the decline of the Ankole is symptomatic of a larger trend which has scientists worried -- that the world is depending for its food supply on an ever-narrowing range of highly-engineered livestock and food crops that could be susceptible to the ravages of disease. Developing countries still possess much of the biodiversity of local domesticated breeds, which are in danger of disappearing.

11. FERMENTING THE FOOD SUPPLY: MODELLING BIOFUEL PRODUCTION AS AN INFECTIOUS GROWTH ON FOOD PRODUCTION

Staniford, Stuart

Oil Drum, January 7, 2008

The author, a consulting scientist and computer security researcher, notes that it is now generally recognized that biofuels production is having an inflationary effect on food

prices, and that in the U.S., ethanol production is growing rapidly and is consuming a significant fraction of the corn harvest. Staniford writes that globally, biofuels production is several years behind that in the U.S., and warns that if it continues on an upward trajectory similar to that in the U.S., it has the potential to cause widespread starvation among the poor, possibly within the next five years. In this technical but readable article, using a variety of methods, including infection/diffusion modelling, Staniford believes that, like a bacterial growth in a Petri dish, world biofuels production is at the beginning stages of a rapid upward growth that will consume an increasing share of the annual global food supply.

国际安全 International Security

12. A NEW REALISM: CRAFTING A US FOREIGN POLICY FOR A NEW CENTURY

Richardson, Bill

Harvard International Review, vol. 29, no. 2, Summer 2007, pp. 26-30

American foreign policy makers face many new challenges in the 21st century. Problems that were once national have now gone global. The author believes that the U.S. must create a foreign policy that is uniquely adapted to the world of global challenges. America remains vulnerable to terrorism as we fight new security challenges with old-fashioned, military methods. Richardson, governor of New Mexico and former U.S. Representative to the United Nations, identifies six trends that are transforming the world, including fanatical jihadism, illegal weapons trade, rise of Asian and Russian powers, and the growth of globalization in economic, health, environmental and social terms.

13. THE RISE OF CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF THE WEST

Ikenberry, G. John

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008

China appears poised to overtake the United States as a world power, but the transition need not be a bloody one, according to Ikenberry, professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University. China will face not a single power but the entire Western order of democratic capitalist states. That order, built around rules and market openness, creates the conditions for China and other rising powers to gain status and play a role in global governance. "The road to global power, in effect, runs through the Western order and its multilateral economic institutions," Ikenberry says. The coming power shift can occur peacefully and on terms favorable to the United States, but only by the United States reinforcing the Western order's system of global governance, first by reestablishing itself as its foremost supporter.

14. HOW DOES IT STACK UP? THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION AT 10

Herby, Peter; La Haye, Eve

Arms Control Today, vol. 37, no. 10, December 2007, pp. 6-10

The authors, who work for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, describe the 1997 Ottawa Convention to ban anti-personnel landmines as “one of the most successful multilateral arms treaties of recent times.” The development of the convention and the ensuing decade of implementation, they say, has “provided a model for cooperative engagement among states, international agencies, civil society organizations, and specialist NGOs in achieving results that none could have achieved alone.” Its example offers insights or lessons learned for tackling other global humanitarian problems, according to Herby and La Haye, since the accord grew from a simple dream to a commitment by 156 nations. The article, which includes a chart listing anti-personnel mine stockpiles for eight countries, describes the convention as “a living process” with a humanitarian program of action that has successfully mobilized thousands of individuals worldwide.

15. A WORLD WITHOUT ISLAM

Fuller, Graham E.

Foreign Policy, no. 164, January-February 2008, pp. 46-53

To many, Islam seems to lie behind a broad range of international disorders. But a world without Islam would leave the world exactly where it is today, says Fuller, former vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA and currently adjunct professor of history at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Terrorism, for example, in the name of Islam or any other religion is hardly unique, Fuller says. Religion is the best banner for oppressed peoples seeking to glorify their cause and has been used frequently across the centuries. Rather than being the source of confrontation, religion is the vehicle used by radical groups to articulate grievances. Even without Islam, the face of the Middle East is complex and conflicted, Fuller says; struggles over power, territory, influence and trade existed long before Islam arrived. “At rock bottom,” he writes, “conflict between East and West remains all about the grand historical and geopolitical issues of human history: ethnicity, nationalism, ambition, greed, resources, local leaders, turf, financial gain, power, interventions and hatred of outsiders, invaders, and imperialists. Faced with timeless issues like these, how could the power of religion not be invoked?”

16. QUESTIONABLE REWARD: ARMS SALES AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM

Stohl, Rachel

Arms Control Today, vol. 38, no. 1, February 2008, pp. 17-23

Stohl, a senior analyst at the private, Washington-based Center for Defense Information, investigates how various forms of U.S. military security assistance is being used to solidifying partners in the global war against terrorism. In the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks against the United States, she examines the pattern of arms sales and military training and aid given to 25 nations in every part of the world (except the Americas) which are either front-line states in counterterrorism efforts or face significant terrorist threat in their region. Her article includes two helpful sidebars: one addressing U.S. weapons export policy and another comparing changes in U.S. military assistance

and arms sales from fiscal years 1997-2001 to FY 2002-2006. The author suggests that it would be best if the United States abided by long-standing export laws to ensure that arms exports don't "undermine security and stability, weaken democracy, support military coups, escalate arms races, exacerbate ongoing conflicts, or cause arms buildups in unstable regions or are used to commit human rights abuses." This might entail scaling back military aid to close allies such as Pakistan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, she said, in an effort to promote human rights improvements.

17. THE COSTS OF CONTAINING IRAN: WASHINGTON'S MISGUIDED NEW MIDDLE EAST POLICY

Nasr, Valia; Takeyh, Ray

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008

Containing Iran is a Cold War fantasy doomed to fail, according to Nasr, professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and Takeyh, a senior fellow at the council. They say Iran could pose threats to U.S., Arab, or Israeli interests. "But envisioning that a grand U.S.-Arab-Israeli alliance can contain Iran will sink Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon into greater chaos; inflame Islamic radicalism; and commit the United States to a lengthy and costly presence in the Middle East," they say. Iran is not a messianic power aiming to spread Islamic militancy, but rather an ambitious rising state seeking to assert influence in its region. The U.S. should aim to integrate Iran into the region in a way that all relevant powers have a stake in preserving regional stability.

美国社会及价值观 U.S. Society and Values

18. CORPORATE AMERICA IN A POST-ADA WORLD

Cole, Yoji

DiversityInc, vol. 6, no. 10, November/December 2007, pp. 70-76

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) opened some doors in the workplace but opportunities for people with disabilities remain elusive. However, executives with disabilities, interviewed for this article, credit the ADA with broadening the opportunities in corporate America but emphasize that legislation alone cannot create a culture completely accepting of people with disabilities. For that to happen, more people with disabilities must self-identify and demonstrate their talents. ADA requires employees to provide access and technology to help people with disabilities succeed at work but it does not force recruitment efforts. This is changing as the lack of skilled workers in the United States has forced corporations to focus attention on the talents of a group of people previously ignored, including people with disabilities and people of color. The article includes list of organizations that provide support for the almost 305,000 members of the U.S. military who were disabled in the line of duty during the Iraq War. The complete list can be found online at <http://www.DiversityInc.com/veterans>.

19. THE MOVEMENT IS THE MESSAGE

Gottschild, Brenda

Dance Magazine, vol. 82, no. 1, January 2008, pp. 62//68

Dancers have responded to social ills throughout the history of modern dance as dancers have mixed activism with art. Today, they are responding to a rainbow of causes, including the war in Iraq, breast cancer, racism, global warming, sexual abuse, torture tactics, domestic violence, environmental pollution, and homophobia. A new group of socially engaged works has emerged that allows contemporary artists to follow in the footsteps of their aesthetic ancestors, particularly since the wake-up call of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Urban Bush Women, Compagnie JANT-BI, Spectrum Dance Theater, Jane Comfort and Company, and Ananya Dance Theatre, profiled in this article, are among the contemporary groups who are exploring an area of performance that is still considered dangerous territory, especially when such artists risk their artistic integrity to take on such socially conscious themes. Two examples: Jane Comfort and Company, based in New York City, has created a work, *An American Rendition*, that uses dance images to symbolize hostages being tortured in remote outposts; another, Ananya Dance Theatre, in Minneapolis, tailors its ensemble of all-female dancers to performances that depict environmental pollution and the racism inherent in poisoning poor people's neighborhoods.

20. REMEMBERING JACK KEROUAC

Johnson, Joyce

Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 6, September 2007, pp. 115-121

The author, a writer and friend of Jack Kerouac, writes that the publication of *ON THE ROAD* in 1957 “uncorked all that bottled-up restlessness” of what has been called the Silent Generation, the children of parents who had lived through the upheavals of the first half of the twentieth century. They “anxiously pursued a narrow definition of the American Dream, terrified of losing their hard-won middle-class status”, and taught their children to keep their heads down. In this staid era, Kerouac’s *ON THE ROAD* defined a craving for new experiences, a desire to pack as much intensity as possible into each moment. Fifty years after it was published, Johnson writes, Kerouac’s voice still calls out: “look around you, stay open, question the roles society has thrust upon you, don’t give up the search for connection and meaning.”

21. DESIGN THINKING

Bell, Steven J.

American Libraries, vol. 39, nos. 1-2, January/February 2008, pp. 44-49

According to the author, design thinking can offer a new perspective and a creative approach in organizing the professional workspace and creating the best possible worker experience. Design thinkers take a much more deliberate and thoughtful approach to problem resolution; they rarely jump on bandwagons. The author adapts his principles (understand; observe; visualize; evaluate/refine; implement) to the library professional but emphasizes that they can be used by others as well. With design thinking, librarians can navigate users to the library and its electronic resources and move beyond the traditional mindset of library service. Books and articles by and about design thinkers,

such as the *The Art of Innovation*, can provide greater detail and more concrete examples of how design thinking is applied to the creation of products and services. The Blended Librarians Online Learning Community (blendedlibrarian.org) is beginning to explore ways in which design thinking can be applied to further collaboration with community partners and help students achieve academic success.

22. WASHINGTON AND LAFAYETTE

Gaines, James

Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 6, September 2007, pp. 82-92

When the bumptious, aristocratic nineteen-year-old Marquis de Lafayette was brought in as a new “major general” to the dour George Washington in July 1777, a greater contrast in personalities could not be imagined. Despite their differences, Washington and Lafayette quickly grew close, and became inseparable during wartime. Some historians write that they may have developed a father-son relationship, but the author notes that Washington and Lafayette shared one important characteristic: they lived in the world of a monarchy, in which status was conferred, not earned. Both men in their own ways, “had to win their own independence ... making their way from courtier-subjects to patriot-citizens” in which achievements are earned by one’s own effort. After American independence, relations between the two became strained; after returning to France, Lafayette advocated exporting American revolutionary principles with the “fervor of a convert”, while Washington urged his country never to take up arms except in self-defense. The author notes that the debate over the wisdom of exporting revolutionary ideals by force has an echo with the differences between France and America over the war in Iraq.